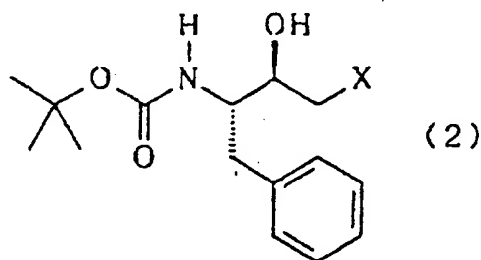


IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-24. (Withdrawn):

25. (Previously Amended): A purification/isolation method of a (2R,3S)-1-halo-2-hydroxy-3-N-(tert-butoxycarbonyl) amino-4-phenylbutane of the following formula (2):



wherein X represents a halogen atom

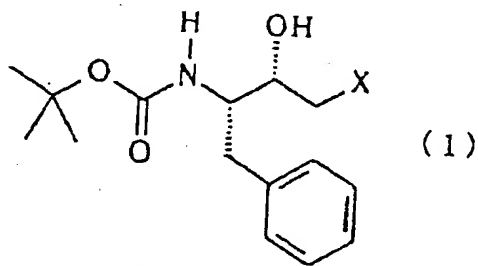
which comprises, for the purpose of removing contaminant impurity from a mixture containing (2R,3S) -halo-2-hydroxy-3-N-(tert-butoxycarbonyl) amino-4-phenylbutane (2), crystallizing the compound (2) in the presence of an aliphatic hydrocarbon solvent and collecting the obtained crystals.

26. (Previously Presented): The purification/isolation method according to claim 25

wherein an aromatic hydrocarbon solvent is used concomitantly as an auxiliary solvent.

27. (Previously Presented): The purification/isolation method according to Claim 26 wherein the aliphatic hydrocarbon solvent accounts for not less than $\frac{1}{2}$ of the total solvent volume at completion of crystallization.

28. (Previously Amended): The purification/isolation method according to Claim 25, 26 or 27 which comprises crystallizing a compound (1) represented by the following formula (1):



wherein X represents a halogen atom, from a mixture containing said compound (1) and compound (2) in the presence of an aromatic hydrocarbon solvent as the major solvent and collecting the crystals,

and then crystallizing said compound (2) by substituting an aliphatic hydrocarbon

solvent for the major solvent of the mother liquor predominantly having the residual compound (2)

and collecting the obtained crystals.

29. (Previously Amended): A purification/isolation method of a compound (1) and a compound (2)

which comprises

crystallizing said compound (1) from a mixture containing the compound (1) and the compound (2) in the presence of an aromatic hydrocarbon solvent as the major solvent and collecting the crystals,

and then crystallizing said compound (2) by substituting an aliphatic hydrocarbon solvent for the major solvent of the mother liquor predominantly having the residual compound (2).

30. (Previously Presented): The purification/isolation method according to Claim 29

wherein an aliphatic hydrocarbon solvent is used concomitantly as an auxiliary solvent at crystallization of the compound (1).

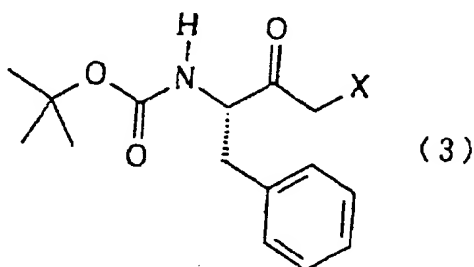
31. (Previously Presented): The purification/isolation method according to Claim

25, 26, 27, 29 or 30

wherein the crystallization is carried out at a temperature not exceeding 60°C.

32. (Previously Amended): The purification/isolation method according to Claim 25,26, 27, 29, or 30

wherein a mixture containing the compound (2) is obtained by diastereo-selective reduction of a (3S)-1-halo-2-oxo-3-N-(tert-butoxycarbonyl) amino-4-phenylbutane of the following formula (3):



wherein X represents a halogen atom.

33. (Previously Presented): The purification/isolation method according to Claim 32 wherein the diastereo-selective reduction is carried out either by using a sodium bis(2-methoxy-ethoxy)aluminum hydride, lithium aluminum hydride, sodium borohydride, an aluminum trialkoxide, a lithium aluminum trialkoxy halide or a substituted

aluminum alkoxide as a reducing agent or by using a strain of microorganism belonging to the genus *Candida*, *Geotrichum*, *Metchnikowia*, *Pachysolen*, *Pichia*, *Rhodotorula*, *Trichosporon*, or *Botryosascus*.

34. (Previously Presented): The purification/isolation method according to Claim 32 wherein the diastereo-selective reduction is carried out either by using a strain of microorganism belonging to the genus *Candida*, *Pichia*, *Ogataea*, *Cryptococcus*, *Citeromyces*, *Debaryomyces*, *Williopsis*, *Kloeckera*, *Lipomyces*, *Rhodospiridium*, *Rhodotorula*, *Saccharomycopsis* or *Wingea*.

35. (Previously Amended): The purification/isolation method according to Claim 32, wherein the mixture containing the compound (2) is obtained by subjecting the compound (3) to diastereo-selective reduction, extracting said compound (2) from the resulting reaction mixture into an organic phase in the presence of an organic solvent and water, separating said organic phase from the aqueous phase and adjusting it to a concentration suitable for crystallization.

36. (Previously Amended): The purification/isolation method according to Claim 35 wherein the mixture containing the compound (2) is obtained by

subjecting compound (3) to diastereo-selective reduction,
extracting the reaction mixture with a hydrocarbon solvent and concentrating the separated organic phase or extracting the reaction mixture with an organic solvent and finally substituting a hydrocarbon solvent for the solvent of the separated organic phase.

37. (Previously Amended): The purification/isolation method according to Claim 36 wherein the mixture containing the compound (2) is obtained by
subjecting said compound (3) to reduction,
extracting the reaction mixture with an organic solvent and finally substituting an aliphatic hydrocarbon solvent for the solvent of the separated organic phase.

38. (Previously Amended): The purification/isolation method according to Claim 37 wherein the mixture containing the compound (2) is obtained by
subjecting said compound (3) to reduction,
extracting the reaction mixture with an aromatic organic solvent
and finally substituting an aliphatic hydrocarbon solvent for the solvent of the separated organic phase.

39. (Previously Amended): The purification/isolation method according to Claim 35 wherein the procedure for obtaining the mixture containing the compound (2) is

carried out at a temperature not exceeding 60 °C.

40. (Previously Amended): The purification/isolation method according to Claim 25, 26, 27 or 30

wherein the whole procedure for obtaining the compound (2) as crystals is carried out at a temperature not exceeding 60 °C.

41. (Previously Amended): The purification/isolation method according to Claim 28 or 29

wherein the aromatic hydrocarbon solvent is at least one member selected from the group consisting of benzene, toluene, xylene, and ethylbenzene.

42. (Previously Presented): The purification/isolation method according to Claim 41

wherein the aromatic hydrocarbon solvent is toluene.

43. (Previously Presented): The purification/isolation method according to Claim 25, 26, 27, 29 or 30

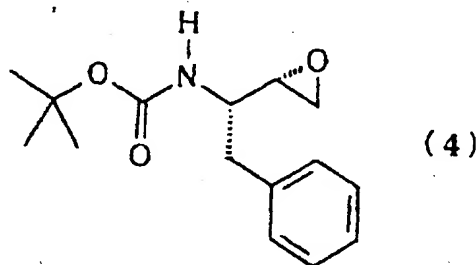
wherein the aliphatic hydrocarbon solvent is at least one member selected from the group consisting of pentane, hexane, methylcyclohexane and heptane.

44. (Previously Presented): The purification/isolation method according to Claim 43

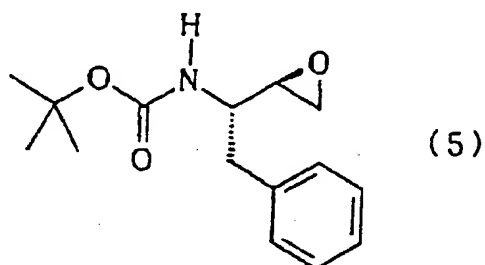
wherein the aliphatic hydrocarbon solvent is hexane.

45. (Currently Amended): The purification/isolation method according to Claim 25, 26, 27, [[28]] 29, or 30[[,31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, or 44]]

wherein the impurity contaminating the mixture containing the compound (2) is at least one member selected from the group consisting of said compound (1), which is the diastereomer, the compound (3), (2S,3S)-1,2-epoxy-3-N-(tert-butoxycarbonyl)amino-4-phenylbutane of the following formula (4):



and (2R,3S)-1,2-epoxy-3-N-(tert-butoxycarbonyl) amino-4-phenylbutane of the following general formula (5):



46. (Previously Presented): The purification/isolation method according to Claim 25, 26, 27, 29 or 30

wherein the halogen atom represented by X in the formula (1), the formula (2) and the formula (3) is chlorine.